

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MONTANA BUTTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MICHAEL JAMES MERZLAK

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Case Number: CR 24-19-BU-DLC-4

USM Number: 22877-511

Abigail Coburn

Defendant's Attorney

THE DEFENDANT:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | pleaded guilty to count(s) | 1 of the Indictment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) which was accepted by the court | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty | |

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

Title & Section / Nature of Offense21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(b)(1)(A) - Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute
Controlled Substances**Offense Ended**

11/01/2023

Count

1

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 7 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s)
- ☒ Count(s) 2 of the Indictment ☒ is dismissed on the motion of the United States

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

May 7, 2025

Date of Imposition of Judgment

Signature of Judge

Dana L. Christensen, District Judge
United States District Court

Name and Title of Judge

May 7, 2025

Date

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DEFENDANT: MICHAEL JAMES MERZLAK
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IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of: **72 months; to run concurrent to any sentence imposed in Silver Bow County District Court Docket Numbers DC-23-39, DC-23-295, and DC-22-263.**

- ☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
- (1) Defendant shall participate in the Bureau of Prisons' 500-hour Residential Drug Treatment Program (RDAP) if eligible.
 - (2) Defendant shall be placed at the Bureau of Prisons' facility at FCI Seagoville in Texas to benefit from programming and to be close to Defendant's family in San Antonio, Texas, or at FCI Yankton in South Dakota.

- ☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:

☐ at ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

- ☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
- ☐ before 2 p.m. on
 - ☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.
 - ☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to

at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By: _____
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT: MICHAEL JAMES MERZLAK
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SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of: **5 years**.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☐ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, et seq.) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any additional conditions on the attached page.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. I understand additional information regarding these conditions is available at <https://www.mtp.uscourts.gov/post-conviction-supervision>.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

1. You must not engage in any gambling or wagering activity of any kind, whether online, over the telephone, or in person, and must not enter any casino or other place of business where gambling is the primary service offered.
2. You must submit your person, residence, place of employment, vehicles, and papers, to a search, with or without a warrant by any probation officer based on reasonable suspicion of contraband or evidence in violation of a condition of release. Failure to submit to search may be grounds for revocation. You must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. You must allow seizure of suspected contraband for further examination.
3. You must abstain from the consumption of alcohol and are prohibited from entering establishments where alcohol is the primary item of sale.
4. You must participate in substance abuse testing to include not more than 365 urinalysis tests, not more than 365 breathalyzer tests, and not more than 36 sweat patch applications annually during the period of supervision. You must pay part, or all of the costs of testing as directed by the probation officer.
5. You must participate in substance abuse treatment or alcohol abuse treatment program, which may include inpatient treatment, and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer will obtain the authorization of the Court before requiring residential or inpatient treatment pursuant to this condition. The probation officer will supervise your participation in the program (provider, location, modality, duration, intensity, etc.). The program may include urinalysis testing to determine if you have used drugs or alcohol. You must not attempt to obstruct or tamper with the testing methods. You must pay part, or all of the costs of this treatment as directed by the probation officer.
6. You must not purchase, possess, use, distribute or administer marijuana, including marijuana that is used for recreational or medicinal purposes under state law.
7. You must not possess, ingest or inhale any psychoactive substances that are not manufactured for human consumption for the purpose of altering your mental or physical state. Psychoactive substances include, but are not limited to, synthetic marijuana, kratom and/or synthetic stimulants such as bath salts and spice.
8. You must not use or possess any controlled substances without a valid prescription. If you do have a valid prescription, you must disclose the prescription information to the probation officer and follow the instructions on the prescription.
9. You must utilize one primary physician and one pharmacy to prescribe, dispense, and monitor all necessary prescription medication. If you have a valid prescription, you must follow the instructions on the prescription. You must notify any treating physician or facility of a history of substance abuse. You must allow third-party disclosure to any treating physician or facility regarding any history of substance abuse.

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CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments.

| | <u>Assessment</u> | <u>JVTA</u> <u>Assessment**</u> | <u>AVAA</u> <u>Assessment*</u> | <u>Fine</u> | <u>Restitution</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| TOTALS | \$100.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$.00 | \$.00 |

- ☐ The determination of restitution is deferred until *An Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case*
(AO245C) will be entered after such determination.
☐ The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

- ☐ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$
- ☐ The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).
- ☐ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the interest requirement is waived for the | <input type="checkbox"/> fine | <input type="checkbox"/> restitution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the interest requirement for the | <input type="checkbox"/> fine | <input type="checkbox"/> restitution is modified as follows: |

*Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.

** Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22

*** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- A** ☒ Lump sum payments of \$ 100.00 due immediately, balance due
☐ not later than _____, or
☒ in accordance with ☐ C, ☐ D, ☐ E, or ☒ F below; or
- B** ☐ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ☐ C, ☐ D, or ☐ F below); or
- C** ☐ Payment in equal _____ (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____ (e.g., months or years), to commence _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after the date of this judgment; or
- D** ☐ Payment in equal 20 (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____ (e.g., months or years), to commence _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E** ☐ Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within _____ (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F** ☒ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:
Criminal monetary penalty payments are due during imprisonment at the rate of not less than \$25.00 per quarter, and payment shall be through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. Criminal monetary payments shall be made to the Clerk, United States District Court, P.O. Box 8537, Missoula, MT 59807 or online at <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/790999918>. Please see www.mtd.uscourts.gov/criminal-debt for more information on how to pay online.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

- ☐ Joint and Several
See above for Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (including defendant number), Total Amount, Joint and Several Amount, and corresponding payee, if appropriate.
- ☐ Defendant shall receive credit on his restitution obligation for recovery from other defendants who contributed to the same loss that gave rise to defendant's restitution obligation.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVT Assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.